



# The Courier

September /October 2020

The Official Newsletter of  
The Fort Myers – Lee County Garden Council, Inc.  
2166 Virginia Avenue., Fort Myers, FL 33901



## President's Message:

Greetings!

Here we go into a new Garden Council season! I suppose “new” is the operative word these days as nothings seems to be the same as it was. However the new season unfolds, let’s think positive and accept the new normal. We’re learning all about virtual meetings, different ways to communicate and share information with each other, and even socialize in a safe way. Last Spring we closed everything down at the Garden Council in an environment in which not much was really known about Covid. I think we now must look at the long haul and how we want to proceed. Needless to say, everyone has their own comfort level and their own health situation to assess. The Council will hold the September and November General Meetings via Zoom. A decision regarding the remaining General Meetings will be made before year-end. We are making the Meeting Room available for member clubs to meet, as long as new requirements are met. These are detailed in the Meeting Room Request and Checklist that are attached at the end of this newsletter. Paramount is that masks are required at all times and social distancing must be adhered to when on the Council premises. Clubs are responsible for wiping everything down with disinfectant after their meeting. We will see how it goes and with everyone’s cooperation and common sense, hopefully we can achieve a safe balance. The Berne Davis Garden is scheduled to reopen to the public on October 13, but we will not have any docents this year.

You will notice that this edition of The Courier looks a little different. As we worked on completing the Yearbook, the Courier, setting up the Meeting Room requirements, and other initiatives, we decided to share the workload and not everyone had the same software as the Council computer. You should see the familiar format next edition!

Thank you in advance for your cooperation as we navigate our way through these new waters. We miss seeing all our friends, but we are looking forward to having the best season that we can!

Learning, Growing, Sharing.....

*Judy Francino*

## **The Berne Davis Botanical Garden**

The Garden will reopen to the public on  
Tuesday, October 13,  
10 am – 1 pm!

Guests will be required to wear masks while on the Garden Council premises and appropriate social distancing will be observed. There will be self – guided tour information available. No Docents will be needed this season.

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*Please come and enjoy our  
Beautiful garden! Embrace  
the serenity and beauty of  
this very special place!*



## Upcoming Garden Council Meetings

Board Meetings:

(Officers, Directors, Committee Chairpersons)

Date: September 4, 2020

Date: October 2, 2020

Time: 9:30 am – 11:30 am

**Zoom Virtual Meeting**

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General Council Meeting:

(All Society and Club members. All are welcome!)

**Friday, September 11, 2020**

**9:30 am**

Tony Mauriello, Master Gardener-Naturalist, speaking on  
*Plant Propagation Techniques*

**This meeting will be held on ZOOM.**

No one will be present at the Council Headquarters!

A Zoom meeting invitation will be sent to Club or Society Presidents to be passed on to membership. Zoom meeting ID and passcode will be in the invitation. You must have Zoom already downloaded on your device prior to the meeting.

*Learning, Growing, Sharing.....*

**The NGC Landscape Design School**, Segment 4, will be held on October 23, 24, 2020. The class will be offered via Zoom only. Please contact Chairperson, Vicki Williamson ([vbwilliamson47@gmail.com](mailto:vbwilliamson47@gmail.com)) if you have any questions.

The Council applauds the LDS Team and attendees for their diligence in completing this program despite many obstacles.

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**The FFGC Floral Design Study Series** will complete the last two segments of their program on

Unit 8, Advanced Creative Designs, Monday, November 2, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, in the FMLCGC HQ. Price is \$40.

Unit 9, Creative Containers & Designers Choice Award, Monday, November 16, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, in the FMLCGC HQ. Price is \$40 per class.

Please contact Susan Lawson at [slawson921@gmail.com](mailto:slawson921@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

## Fort Myers – Lee County Garden Council Meeting Room:

The Garden Council meeting room will reopen for member Club and Society meetings as of September 1. Please be sure to reserve your meeting dates and times with Mary King ([marejon1202@comcast.net](mailto:marejon1202@comcast.net)). Masks must be worn at all times by anyone on the Council premises. Social Distancing guidelines must be strictly adhered to. If anyone has an underlying health condition, there is an inherent risk of infection.

Due to COVID, any club using the Meeting Room must, in addition to normal cleanup, follow the sanitizing checklist which will be in the room. This outlines spraying or wiping down all typically touched surfaces in the room with a Sanitizer or wipe which will be provided. Clubs are asked to check it off and leave a completed copy of their checklist in the designated bin in the room to ensure that your group complied to the best of ability. A copy is attached at the end of this newsletter.

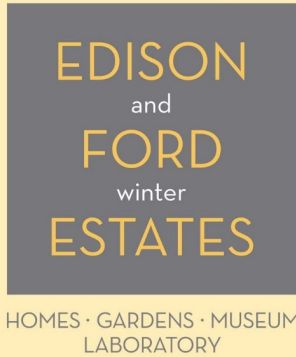
Please note that the Council has increased the professional cleaning staff schedule to weekly service.

Additionally, all Presidents have received a form requesting the use of the Meeting Room. The Council Board really needs a better understanding of who is using the room and how many people have used the space. Most clubs have reserved the Room for their normal meeting dates, but privately have noted that they probably will not be meeting in person for the first few months. For various reasons during this challenging time, we must have the completed form emailed to the President, Judy Francino ([fmlcgardencouncil@gmail.com](mailto:fmlcgardencouncil@gmail.com)) at least 2 weeks prior to use. A copy is attached at the end of this newsletter.

Thank you for your compliance as we strive to balance access and a safe Environment.



*Support our Affiliate Member &  
Have fun too!*



***See the Butterfly and Vine  
Demonstration Gardens!***



Participating vendors will  
be on site until 2 p.m.:

- ♦ Calusa Palms
- ♦ Deep South Natives
- ♦ K&K Superblend
- ♦ Sunland Orchids
- ♦ *Plus food trucks and beer!*

# Plant Sale

Saturday, September 12

9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Our outdoor Garden Shoppe is stocked with flowering plants, fruit trees, herbs, succulents, butterfly plants, Florida natives and rare exotics!

- ♦ Free admission to the Plant Sale (does not include tours)
- ♦ Garden Guidance Table to answer your gardening questions
- ♦ Garden carts are limited, so if you have one, bring it along
- ♦ Discounts and raffle available
- ♦ Refreshments available for purchase
- ♦ Museum Store also open

We are taking precautions to help keep you safe:

- ♦ Everyone attending the sale is required to wear a mask and practice social distancing
- ♦ Our staff undergo daily temperature checks and are wearing masks
- ♦ Surfaces are being cleaned and sanitized daily
- ♦ Outdoor sales checkout will be available

## **Save the Date:**

October 10 (Orchid Symposium), 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.



2350 McGregor Blvd. · Fort Myers, FL 33901 · EdisonFord.org · 239-334-7419

**FFGC AWARDS****Sylvia Swartz, District IX Awards Chair**

Awards application season is fast approaching. Deadline to submit your club's Yearbook for an award is November 1. Mail two copies of application and two copies of Yearbook (staple application inside front cover of Yearbook) to the FFGC 3<sup>rd</sup> VP: Christy Linke, 2909 Aston Ave, Plant City FL 33566-9301.

Because of the Pandemic, awards submissions are being handled differently this year. Most applications, (see exceptions below) should be **EMAILED** (NOT SENT BY US MAIL) to [ffgcawards@gmail.com](mailto:ffgcawards@gmail.com). Exceptions to this are listed below:

<b>Award</b>	<b>Send to</b>
#1 Blanche Capel Covington Leadership, #8 Garden Club of the Year, #9 Special Membership Incentive #10 Mentoring Award	Mail to FFGC President, Al Latina, 7002 Doreen St., Tampa FL 33617 All due 11/24
#4 FFGC Award of Excellence for Club Due 11/1	Email to District Director 9 at <a href="mailto:RonMontwid@yahoo.com">RonMontwid@yahoo.com</a>
#13 Publication and #28 Horticulture Leadership Awards #67 Pressed Wildflower Collection All due 11/24	Mail to Jennifer Condo, 1318 Glenwood Rd, DeLand, FL 32720-2110
#62 Mary S. Compton Award Publicity Due 1/15/21	Mail to Awards Chair, Valerie Seinfeld, 2606 Bennington Pl. DeLand, FL 32720-1404

If mailing application, include two copies. There are also special instructions regarding Flower Show Awards, Youth Awards and High School Awards, too lengthy to include here but please call me for details (239-339-3778)

[Below, I have listed some bullet points on how to apply for an award:](#)

- Process (usually carried out by the President or an Awards Committee):
- Review the entire list of Federation Awards at <https://ffgc.org/Award-Descriptions-&-Rules>
  - Review the completed projects and ongoing projects in your Club
  - Select a relevant award
  - **Match** the project to the award **criteria**
  - Seek advice if required from District IX Awards Chair (Sylvia Swartz, 239-339-3778, tamargal2@aol.com)
- President or Committee consults and decides who will write the application
- Person writing the award should
  - Download the application form from the FFGC Awards site and fill in via computer or handwrite and then scan to computer file
  - Read the description of the selected award and comply with any detailed instructions that may be contained in that award description
  - Source and check the information required regarding Category, Class (if applicable) and name of Award, District Number, number of members in the Club, etc., start date, finish date, etc.
- Write the description of the project, remembering not to exceed a total of 3 pages including photos and ensuring to speak to the **criteria** of the award
  - Pointers:
    - When writing the project description, remember to tell a story with an introduction, the detail, and an appropriate closing paragraph
    - Select and insert appropriate photos of the project
- Keep a file copy and email or mail a copy to District IX Awards Chair, Sylvia Swartz, 4030 SW 9<sup>th</sup> Pl., Cape Coral, FL 33914 tamargal2@aol.com



**Save these Dates!.....**

- September 11, 2020: FMLCGC General Meeting  
ZOOM  
Meeting notice will be sent to Club Presidents for distribution
- October 22, 2020: District IX Fall Meeting  
Details TBD
- October 23 – 24, 2020: Landscape Design Class IV  
Zoom for registrants  
For more information, [vbwilliamson47@gmail.com](mailto:vbwilliamson47@gmail.com)
- November 2 , 2020: Floral Design Study Series, Unit 8  
Advanced Creative Designs  
10 am – 3 pm  
FMLCGC Headquarters, 2166 Virginia Ave.  
For more information, [slawson921@gmail.com](mailto:slawson921@gmail.com)
- November 13, 2020: FMLCGC General Meeting  
ZOOM  
Meeting notice will be sent to Club Presidents for distribution
- November 16, 2020: Floral Design Study Series, Unit 9  
Creative Containers & Designers Choice Award  
10 am – 3 pm  
FMLCGC Headquarters, 2166 Virginia Ave.  
For more information, [slawson921@gmail.com](mailto:slawson921@gmail.com)
- April 10 -- 14, 2021: FFGC Convention  
Daytona Beach, FL

**Your FMLCGC Board!**

President: Judy Francino [jfrancino@att.net](mailto:jfrancino@att.net) 248 425-8713

1<sup>st</sup> VP: Susan Lawson [slawson921@gmail.com](mailto:slawson921@gmail.com) 941 979-0615

2<sup>nd</sup> VP: Sylvia Swartz [tamaragal2@aol.com](mailto:tamaragal2@aol.com) 239 339-3778

Treasurer: Charlene Anderson [beadie1@gmail.com](mailto:beadie1@gmail.com) 978 828-6696

Asst. Treasurer: Diane Schmidt [dianegcgc18@aol.com](mailto:dianegcgc18@aol.com) 607 351-2005

Recording Secretary: Bonnie McClure [bonmccclure@hotmail.com](mailto:bonmccclure@hotmail.com) 847 630-3218

Corresponding Secretary: Sylvia Lightbody [slightbody@comcast.net](mailto:slightbody@comcast.net) 239 561-5704

Advisor: Bernadette Hamera [bhamera@outlook.com](mailto:bhamera@outlook.com) 239 233-1166

Advisor: Debbie Hughes [dhughes@edisonfordwinterestates.org](mailto:dhughes@edisonfordwinterestates.org) 239 271-4004

Advisor: Laura Jibben [ljibbenfmb@embarqmail.com](mailto:ljibbenfmb@embarqmail.com) 312 320-4566

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